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A FAIR HESSIAN.

Princess Alix May Some Day Be Empress of Russia.

Princess Alix of Hesse is to be married some time in the coming autumn to the czarowitz of Russia, and half the courts of Europe are beaming with gratulations over the happy arrangement where by a petty German princess is to become the consort of the young man who, if he lives, will one day be czar of all the Russias and lord paramount of the lives and destinies of millions upon millions of people. It is odd what a predilection the reigning house of Russia has for the house of Hesse. Both the czarowitz's grandmothers were Hessian princesses, and one of his uncles, the Grand Duke Sergius, is married to an elder sister of the Princess Alix.

PRINCESS ALIX.

Of course there has been since the betrothal a good deal of the usual talk about the match being purely a love affair, but nobody really takes that seriously, though in this case it ought to be true, for common sense would forbid the banns of marriage between these two young people. Neither of them enjoys really good health. The czarowitz, who is a nervous, melancholy looking young man of 26, is supposed to have epileptic tendencies, and the Princess Alix has on several occasions been under treatment by noted brain and nerve specialists, though the nature of her ailment has never been made public.

Nevertheless she is the most attractive and winsome of the unmarried princesses of Europe, amiable, lively, graceful and accomplished, sensitive, impulsive and sympathetic, with a most decided character and individuality of her own and a remarkable dower of beauty—for a German princess. She is the youngest daughter of the late Grand Duke Louis IV and the Princess Alice of Great Britain, who was the favorite child of Queen Victoria. Her mother died when Princess Alix was but 6 years old, and she and her eldest sister, the wife of Prince Louis of Battenburg, have ever since been especially favored by their royal grandmother.

French Taste For Fiction.

Statistics prepared in Paris show that the proportions of novels to serious works read in the public libraries of the municipality is less than 52 per 100. Of 1,583,000 volumes circulated from the district library rooms only 817,000 were novels. Alexandre Dumas' works are the most called for.

Hats as Life Preservers.

It is not generally known that when a person falls into the water a common felt hat may be made use of as life preserver, and by placing the hat upon the water, rim down, with the arm around it pressing slightly to the breast, it will bear a man up for hours.

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There are a great many homes having zinc lined Bath Tubs that are in good condition with this one exception, they lack the features of a porcelain lining. How to overcome this without going to the expense of getting a new tub has been a question that has worried a good many.

One pot of our WHITE ENAMEL PAINT will do the work, forming as it does a GLOSSY SURFACE almost equal in hardness and durability to that of Porcelain itself, being at the same time hardly distinguished from Porcelain.

Consult with your Physician and he will tell you by all means to paint your Bath Tub with ENAMEL PAINT.

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We also call your special attention to our economical BARREL and CYLINDER CHURNS, they are easy workers, have all sizes and prices.

We have a handy CLOTHES DRIER having ten arms made to fasten on the wall, when not in use, by a simple pull these arms fold up like a fan, thus taking up but little room.

Remember we sell Standard Oil Co's. Pearl Oil at $1.80 per case C. O. D. delivered to any part of the city free.

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GEMS IN VERSE.

The Prairies.

Ye boundless prairies of the west!
Of all earth's lands I love you best.
Your grassy hills and flow'ry dells
Are gentle as the ocean's swells.
They stretch away till skies descend
And with your hue of beauty blend,
And all their sunlit glories rest
Upon the prairies of the west.

The gentle zephyrs as they pass
Are softly whisp'ring to the grass
Of tribes now sleeping 'neath the sod
Which once your velvet hillocks trod.
I love in solitude to go
Where roamed the deer and buffalo,
And where the plow has not distressed
The virgin prairies of the west.

No walled-in mountain home for me,
But prairies, endless, broad and free,
That stretch in beauty all around,
Unchained, unbroken and profound—
Above, the blue; below, the green;
Unbending beauty spread between.
Of all earth's lands I love you best—
Ye boundless prairies of the west!

—Nixon Waterman.

Chemistry of Character.

John and Peter and Robert and Paul—
God in his wisdom created them all.
John was a statesman and Peter a slave,
Robert a preacher, and Paul was a knave,
Evil or good, as the case may be,
White or colored or bond or free,
John and Peter and Robert and Paul—
God in his wisdom created them all.

Out of earth's elements, mingled with flame,
Out of life's compounds of glory and shame,
Fashioned and shaped by no will of their own
And helplessly into life's history thrown;
Born by the law that compels man to be,
Born to conditions they could not foresee—
John and Peter and Robert and Paul—
God in his wisdom created them all.

John was the head and heart of his state,
Was trusted and honored, was noble and great.
Peter was made 'neath life's burden to groan
And never once dreamed that his soul was his own.
Robert great glory and honor received
For zealously preaching what no one believed,
While Paul of the pleasures of sin took his fill
And gave up his life in the service of ill.

It chanced that these men, in their passing away
From earth and its conflicts, all died the same day.
John was mourned through the length and the breadth of the land;
Peter fell 'neath the lash in a merciless hand;
Robert died with the praise of the Lord on his tongue,
While Paul was convicted of murder and hung.
John and Peter and Robert and Paul—
The purpose of life was fulfilled in them all.

Men said of the statesman, "How noble and brave!"
But of Peter, alas, "He is only a slave!"
Of Robert, "'Tis well with his soul; it is well!"
While Paul they consigned to the torments of hell.
Born by one law, through all nature the same,
What made them different, and who was to blame?
John and Peter and Robert and Paul—
God in his wisdom created them all.

Out in that region of infinite light,
Where the soul of the black man is pure as the white;
Out where the spirit, through sorrow made wise,
No longer resorts to deception and lies;
Out where the flesh can no longer control
The freedom and faith of the God given soul,
Who shall determine what change may befall
John and Peter and Robert and Paul?

John may in wisdom and goodness increase;
Peter rejoice in an infinite peace;
Robert may learn that the truths of the Lord
Are more in the spirit and less in the word,
And Paul may be blessed with a holier birth
Than the patience of man had allowed him on earth.
John and Peter and Robert and Paul—
God in his mercy will care for them all.

—Burlington Hawkeye.

Viavi Testimonial.

Having received so much benefit from the use of Viavi I am anxious the public should know what a blessing has come to us with the Viavi Remedies

I have suffered with a complication of diseases for six years, have been in the hospital in San Francisco but have found nothing that has benefited me so much as Viavi.

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The Sheriff of Siskyou.

By BRET HARTE.

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Continued.

Here the major lashed out. A set of traitors and hirelings! He had bought and paid for them all. He had sunk $2,000 in The Express and saved the editor from being horsewhipped and jailed for libel. Half the cursed bonds that they were making such a blanketed fuss about were handled by these hypocrites, blank them! They were a low lived crew of thieves and deserters. It is presumed that the major had forgotten himself in this infelicitous selection of epithets, but the stranger's face only relaxed into a grim smile. More than that, the major had apparently forgotten his desire to hear his guest talk, for he himself at once launched into an elaborate exposition of his own affairs and a specious and equally elaborate defense and justification of himself and denunciation of his accusers. For nearly half an hour he reviewed step by step and detail by detail the charges against him, with plausible explanation and sophistical argument—always with a singular prolixity and reiteration that spoke of incessant consciousness and self abstraction. Of that dashing self sufficiency which had dazzled his friends and awed his enemies there was no trace. At last even the set smile of the degraded recipient of these confidences darkened with a dull, bewildered disgust. Then, to his relief, a step was heard without. The major's manner instantly changed.

"Well," he demanded impatiently as Dawson entered.

"I came to know what you want done with him," said Dawson, indicating the fugitive with a contemptuous finger.

"Take him to your cabin."

"My cabin! Him?" ejaculated Dawson, turning sharply on his chief.

The major's light eyes contracted, and his thin lips became a straight line. "I don't think you understand me, Dawson, and another time you'd better wait until I've done. I want you to take him to your cabin and then clear out of it yourself. You understand? I want him near me and alone."

Dawson was not astonished the next morning to see Major Overstone and the half breed walking together down the gully road, for he had already come to the conclusion that the major was planning some extraordinary reprisal against the invaders that would insure the perpetual security of the camp. That he should use so insignificant and unimportant a tool now appeared to him to be quite natural, particularly as the service was probably one in which the man would be sacrificed. "The major," he suggested to his companions, "ain't going to risk a white man's skin when he can get an Injin's hide handy."

The reluctant, hesitating step of the half breed as they walked along seemed to give some color to this hypothesis. He listened sullenly to the major as he pointed out the strategic position of the Bar. "That wagon road is the only approach to Wynyard's, and a dozen men along the rocks could hold it against a hundred. The trail that you came by over the ridge drops straight into this gully, and you saw what that would mean to any blanked fools who might try it. Of course we could be shelled from that ridge if the sheriff had a howitzer or the men also knew how to work one, but even then we could occupy the ridge before them." He paused a moment and then added: "I used to be in the army, Tom. I saw service in Mexico before that cub you got away from had his first trousers. I was brought up as a gentleman—blank it all!—and here I am."

The man slouched on by his side, casting his surly, furtive glances from left to right as if seeking to escape from these confidences. Nevertheless the major kept on through the gully until reaching the wagon road they crossed it and began to ascend the opposite slope, half hidden by the underbrush and larches. Here the major paused again and faced about. The cabins of the settlement were already behind the bluff. The little stream which indicated the "bar," on which some perfunctory mining was still continued, now and then rang out quite clearly at their feet, although the bar itself had disappeared. The sounds of occupation and labor had at last died out in the distance. They were quite alone. The major sat down on a bowlder and pointed to another. The man, however, remained sullenly standing where he was, as if to accent as strongly as possible the enforced companionship. Either the major was too self absorbed to notice it or accepted it as a satisfactory characteristic of the half breed race. He continued confidently:

"Now, look here, Tom! I want to leave this cursed hole and get clear out of the state. Anywhere—over the Oregon line into British Columbia or to the coast, where I can get a coasting vessel down to Mexico. It will cost money, but I've got it. It will cost a lot of risks, but I'll take them. I want somebody to help me—some one to share risks with me and some one to share my luck if I succeed. Help to put me on the other side of the border line by sea or land, and I'll give you $1,000 down before we start and $1,000 when I'm safe."

The half breed had changed his slouching attitude. It seemed more indolent on account of the loosely hanging strap that had once held his haversack, which was still worn in a slovenly fashion over his shoulder, as a kind of lazy sling for his shiftless hand.

"Well, Tom, is it a go? You can trust me, for you'll have the thousand in your pocket before you start. I can trust you, for I'll kill you quicker than lightning if you say a word of this to any one before I go or play a single trick on me afterward."

Suddenly the two men were rolling over and over in the underbrush. The half breed had thrown himself upon the major, bearing him down to the ground. The haversack strap for an instant whirled like the loop of a lasso in the air and descended over the major's shoulders, pinioning his arms to his side. Then the half breed, tearing open his ragged blouse, stripped off his waist belt and as dexterously slipped it over the ankles of the struggling man.

To be continued.

Too Late.

The country bride and bridegroom, with clothing creaking new, walked lovingly hand in hand down the broad hotel dining room, two souls with but a single thought, and blindly oblivious to all things else but each other on this great, happy earth of ours. Almost crowded on one chair, he fondly fed her as the parent bird its little chick.

"Darling," he murmuringly chuckled, "shall I skin ye a pertater?"

"No, deary," she gurgled; "I've one already skun."—Tit-Bits.

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These crushers when attached to any cane mill will increase its capacity by from 50 to 100 per cent; will improve extraction, will regulate feed of the mill. We have three of these machines in the way. For further particulars enquire at the

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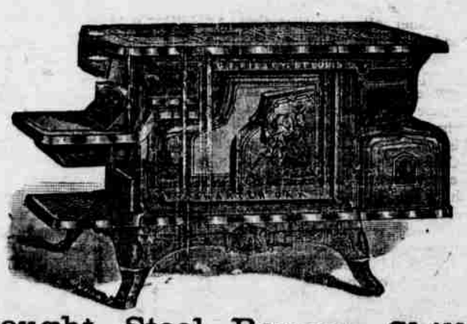
JOHN NOTT.



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